



Desert Lake View

2005 - 2006

Lake Mead National Recreation Area (Lake Mead NRA) provides a wide variety of unique outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from warm-water recreation to exploration of rugged and isolated backcountry.

Get Out on Foot

The Mojave Desert around Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NRA) may look like an alien landscape. To the uninitiated, it may appear inhabitable and seems uninteresting. But this perspective instantly changes once you get out of your car, away from the road, and out on foot.

As an intern here at Lake Mead NRA, one of my goals is to visit the desert often, and on foot, to experience the park's many wonders close up. My first stop was the Bowl of Fire – a majestic, bowl-shaped outcropping of red and orange rock.

I left the car behind and set foot on the desert floor. Entering Callville Wash, the trail into the Bowl of Fire, I found the ground slick, smooth and muddy from the recent flood. I was surrounded by desert plants like cat's claw acacia, beavertail cactus and an occasional barrel cactus. The desert air was scented with the distinct aroma of creosote bushes after a rain.

Fall had arrived. The desert felt fresh.

I hiked up the wash searching for signs of animal life, tracks of a coyote, scat from a jackrabbit, or even evidence of a solitary desert tortoise. Small zebra-tailed lizards scurried along the rocks leaving a flash, otherwise remaining camouflaged and undetected.

As I skirted the boulders marking the entrance to the Bowl of Fire I stood mesmerized. Walls of striped red sandstone towered before me. I saw tiny arches atop sandstone summits, beautifully carved cups, bowls and holes in the smooth rock. The fiery colors heated by the mid-day sun made the whole area look like it was dancing in flames.

I walked into a small canyon to rest in the shade, and I felt a cool breeze funneling through. Sitting on a rock, I looked at the walls above me. Mother Nature's work here is so stunning and artful that it fills one with wonder. With no pattern or continuity the walls were beautiful and

hypnotic, almost hallucinogenic. I began exploring the sandstone rock noticing huge holes, caves and dens, perfect for animal habitation. I climbed over hard rock and stood captivated by the rain pools caught by the sandstone. The shifting sun cast eerie and fascinating shadows; strange shapes emerged, changed, and disappeared throughout the day.

I thought of the cars on Northshore Road and their passengers completely oblivious to this fascinating rock wonderland. The Mojave Desert is different than the majestic forests, cold streams and fields of snow that I am used to experiencing. But, the desert is mysterious; its beauty unfolds to those who make the effort to find it.

The sun was sinking towards a long jagged ridgeline as I hiked back out of the wash. I scrambled to the top of a gray hill and watched a Mojave Desert sunset, a stunning display of colors above the dark Muddy Mountains to the west.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Lake Mead National Recreation Area
(Lake Mead NRA)

Established in 1964 as the nation's first national recreation area, Lake Mead NRA encompasses over 1.4 million acres ranging in elevation from 517 feet to 6,990 feet above sea level. Lake Mead and Lake Mohave stretch 140 miles along the old Colorado River channel following the Nevada and Arizona borders. Lake Mead NRA receives approximately 8 to 10 million visitors annually.

Contact Information

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702.293.8907

Mailing Address
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Boulder City, NV 89005

E-mail
LAME_information@nps.gov

Fax Number
702.293.8936

Website
www.nps.gov/lame

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

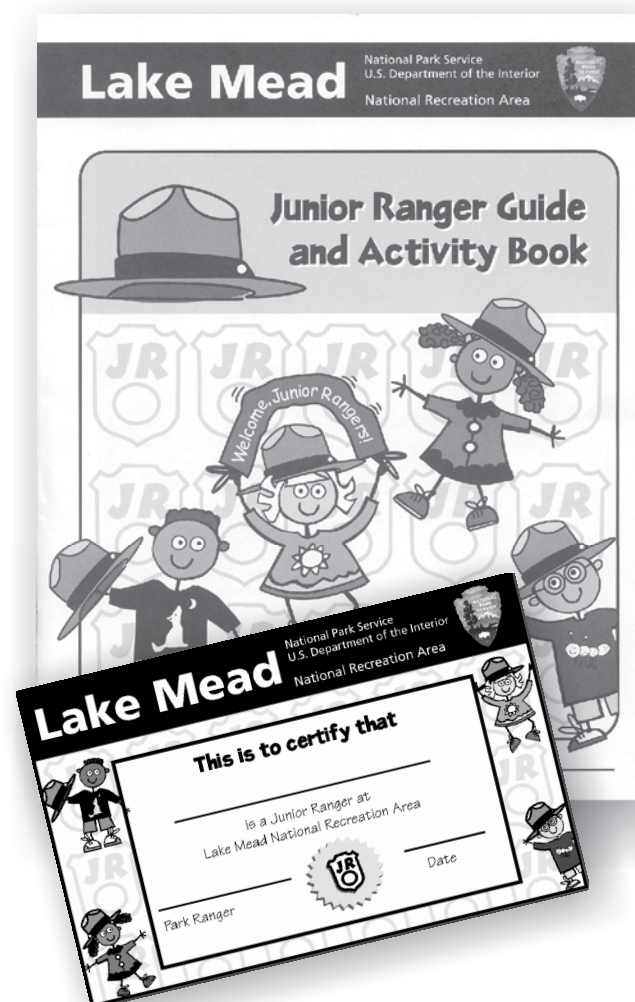
JUNIOR RANGERS

While visiting Lake Mead, why not become a Junior Ranger? Come into the Lake Mead Visitors Center, pick up a free Junior Ranger Booklet, complete the activities and become a Junior Ranger!

The booklet contains fun and educational activities that relate to Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The activities can be done at the Visitor Center or at home and then mailed into the Visitor Center.

Junior Ranger Program
Lake Mead NRA
601 Nevada Way
Boulder City, NV 89005

A Lake Mead Ranger will present a color certificate and a badge to the new Junior Ranger.



Invasion of the Zebra Mussel!

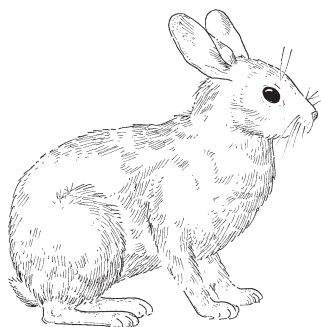


Stop the spread of zebra mussels!

Plants and animals, such as the zebra mussel, may be lurking on your boat or trailer threatening to spread zebra mussels in our western lakes. Always clean and dry out your vessel before moving to another lake.

This invasive species from Eastern Europe is spreading at an alarming rate across the United States.

- Before launching your boat or personal watercraft at Lake Mead, remove all visible mud, plants, fish or animals from all of your recreation equipment
- Eliminate all water from your equipment before you move to another lake
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water
- Clean and dry your boat, trailer, bilges and live wells and anything that comes into contact with the water

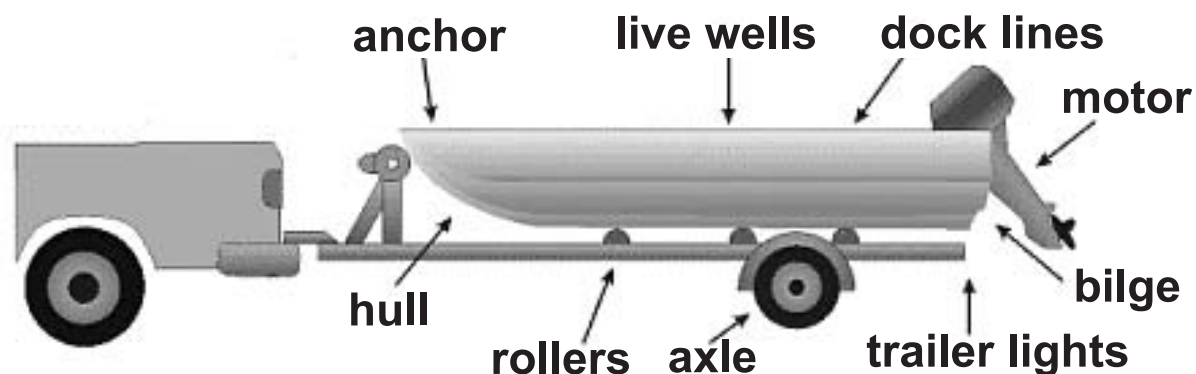


© S. Schaefer 2001

Do not feed wildlife.
Your handouts can cause sickness and death to our native wildlife.

2

Leave 'em alone!



Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!

If you see a zebra mussel, please call 800-680-5851



Exploring at Lake Mead NRA

NORTHSHORE SUMMIT TRAIL

Northshore Summit Trail, located at mile 20.5 on Northshore Road, rewards hikers with a dramatic panoramic view of the Muddy Mountains, the red rocks of the Bowl of Fire, Bitter Springs Valley, and the Virgin Basin. Watch for hiking and photography signs to find this easy half-mile round trip hike.

LOVELL WASH

Lovell Wash, located at mile marker 16 on Northshore Road, offers hikers both history and scenery. Hiking along a wash bottom you will pass the Anniversary Mine and end up in the spectacular Lovell Wash Narrows. Be sure to bring lots of water on the five-mile round trip hike. No services.

REDSTONE PICNIC AREA

Redstone Picnic Area, located at mile 27 on Northshore Road, sits peacefully among spectacular red rock formations. The red sandstone is actually ancient sand dunes that formed millions of years ago. Wind your way through the sandstone monoliths on an interpretive trail. Picnic tables and backcountry bathrooms are available at this remote spot.

ROGERS SPRING

Rogers Spring bubbles up out of the rock to form a beautiful oasis. Located at mile 40 on Northshore Road, Rogers Spring attracts many visitors to play in the warm water and enjoy the overgrown foliage. Great spot for a picnic lunch. Cross the bridge to find a trail leading upwards to the right. An easy climb takes you up to a stunning overlook. Backcountry bathrooms are available.

BLUE POINT SPRING

Blue Point Spring is another natural spring off of Northshore Road located at mile 41. Tall palms tower over the shallow flowing spring. Visitors have an opportunity to view natural riparian habitat. No services.

LAKE VIEW OVERLOOK

Lake View Overlook, off of US Highway 93 on your way to Hoover Dam, coaxes the visitor to get out of the car and take in a dramatic view of the Boulder Basin. A very short drive takes you up to a convenient turn-around at the top of a hill. A rock wall keeps visitors on the safe side of the steep mountains as they enjoy the breath-taking views.

KATHERINE MINE

Katherine Mine lies dead and decaying but the history is rich and lively. Stop in at the Ranger Station at Katherine Landing for more information on your way to the abandoned mine site. Once there, stay on the trail and stay away from shaft openings and cliff edges.

PEARCE FERRY LANDING

Pearce Ferry was an original ferry crossing on the Colorado River. Today it is a remote boat launch and camp area located at the mouth of the Grand Canyon. There are remains of a Civilian Conservation Corps spike camp that was built back in the 1930's. You can still see the remains of a dynamite bunker where dynamite was stored to blow up the logjams along that section of the Colorado River. Backcountry bathrooms and campground are available.

RAILROAD TUNNEL TRAIL

Walk or bike the Historic Railroad Tunnel Trail for spectacular views of the Boulder Basin of Lake Mead. Stop by the Alan Bible Visitor Center to catch up on the history of the railroad that was used to build Hoover Dam in the 1930's.

GRAPEVINE CANYON

Grapevine Canyon has the most spectacular and abundant petroglyphs found in the park. A short walk takes you into a canyon filled with ancient Native American rock art. Never handle, deface or remove any rock art. The petroglyphs are a diminishing resource, don't hurry the degradation. Take Nevada Highway 163 west from Davis Dam to mile marker 13 and make a right turn onto the dirt road.

WHITE ROCK CANYON

White Rock Canyon is a strikingly beautiful volcanic canyon with a sandy wash at the bottom dotted with giant white granite boulders, hence the name. A moderately strenuous hike takes you downstream only to emerge at the Colorado River (upper Lake Mohave). Continue ¼ mile south or downstream along the Colorado River to reach the Arizona Hotsprings (see adventuring tips). Remember, the hike out is uphill! The trailhead begins 4.2 miles east of Hoover Dam on US Hwy 93.

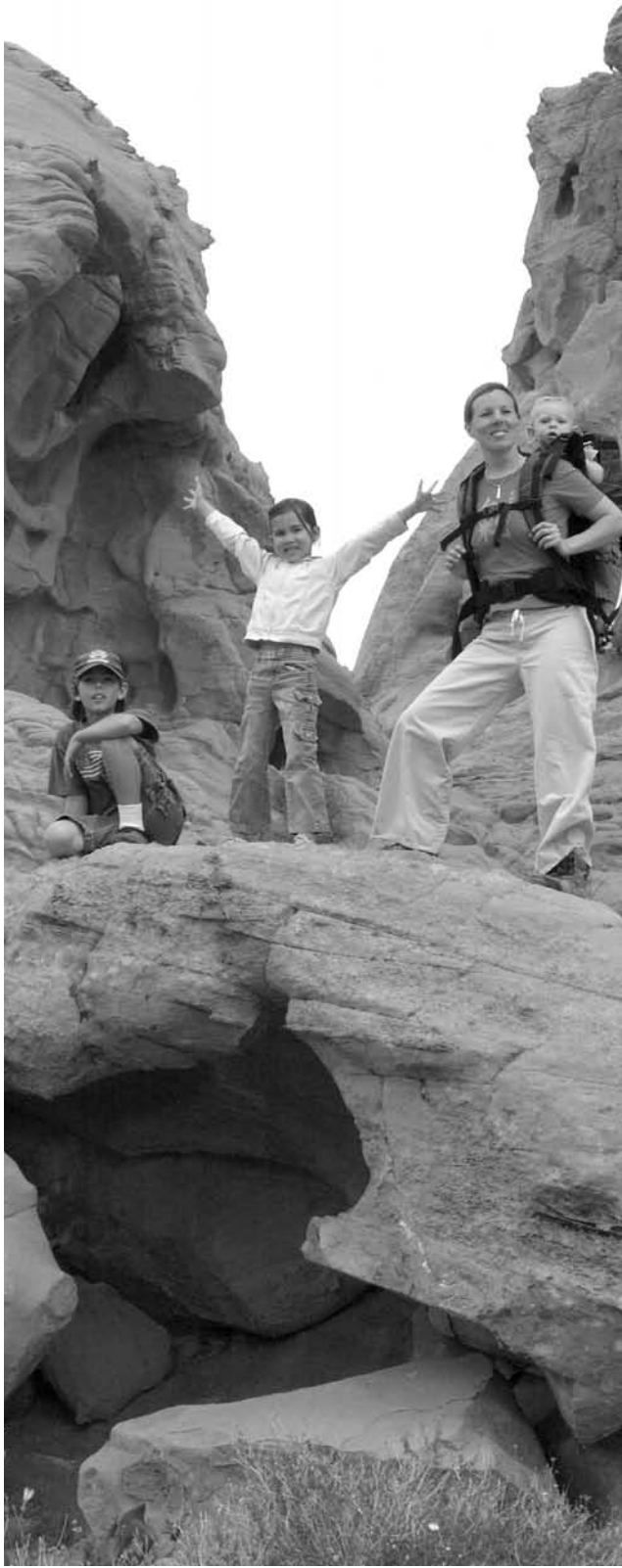


Photo by Karen Johnson

Helpful Hints

When exploring Lake Mead's spectacular backcountry please remember the safety rules so you don't get yourself into trouble. Always take and drink water in the desert, even when it is cool. It is also a good idea to go with a friend and tell someone your itinerary.

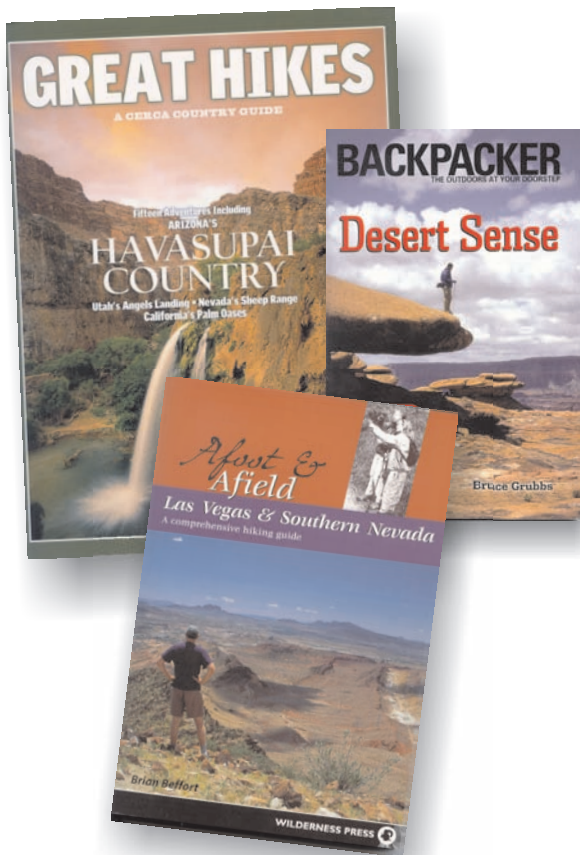
Distances can be deceiving in the desert. A mountain may look close but be actually many

miles away. Looking at maps, talking to a park ranger or stopping at the Visitor Center are good ways to find a hike that will match your skill level.

Watch the weather! The weather can suddenly change without warning. If hiking in the wintertime bring a jacket in case of a storm or if you get caught after dark. The temperature can drop 20 degrees quite quickly. And as the days get shorter a flashlight thrown in your pack is a good idea. (Believe it or not we have had snow in the park a couple of times)

Please leave the desert as beautiful as you find it. Carry out all of your trash and leave the protected rocks, plants and animals where they are. Enjoy!





The Alan Bible Visitor Center has many beautiful books on Desert Hiking and exploring.

Great Hikes has wonderfully descriptive text and spectacular photos of 15 different hikes in the southwest including hikes here at Lake Mead and out at Red Rock NCA. \$11.95

Desert Sense by Bruce Grubbs is an excellent how-to book on making your way safely in the desert by vehicle, by bike or on foot. \$16.95. Also by Bruce Grubbs is *Desert Hiking Tips - Expert Advice on Desert Hiking and Driving*. \$6.95

Afoot & Afield by Brian Beffort is a comprehensive hiking guide for Las Vegas and Southern Nevada. This guide features more than 100 great outings near Las Vegas with easy-to-read maps, GPS waypoints, elevation gains, distances, and much more. \$16.95

Simple Foods for the Pack is a Sierra Club Outdoor Adventure Guide and features more than 200 all-natural, trail-tested recipes. Some of the tasty tantalizing recipes include Thai Crab Cakes, Mushroom Ginger Noodle Soup, Skillet Brownies and High Mountain Pie. \$14.95

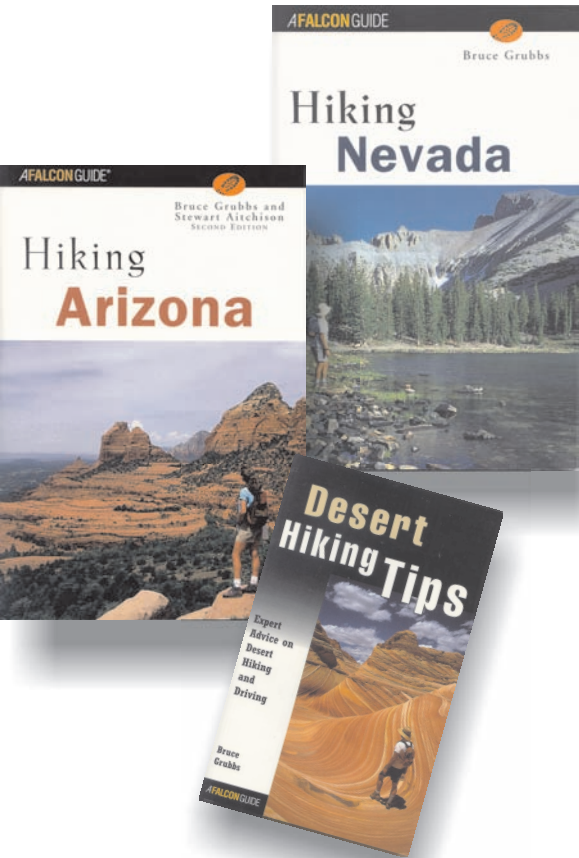
Camp Cook's Companion by Alan Kesselheim is all you need to prepare delicious and creative meals in the



Visit the Alan Bible Visitor Center for a fantastic selection of books about Lake Mead NRA, the Mojave Desert, the flora and fauna of the region, Native American history and more! And not only are there books but they also carry puppets, coloring books and crayons, blocks, hats, tote bags, water bottles, posters, cards, walking sticks, maps, and much, much more!

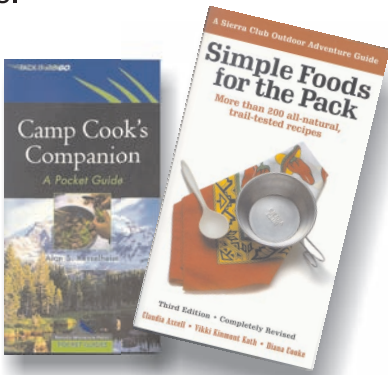
The Alan Bible visitor Center is located four miles southeast of Boulder City at the junction of Highway 93 and Lakeshore Scenic Drive. The Center is on the left side of the highway as you drive towards Hoover Dam and on the right side when you turn onto Lakeshore Scenic Drive.

For more information please call (702) 293-8990 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Pacific time.



outdoors. This *Pack It and Go Ragged Mountain Press Pocket Guide* covers how to dry, organize and pack food for the trail. Simple recipes include everything from tasty one-pot creations to delicious fresh-baked pastries. \$10.95

Hiking Nevada (\$14.95) and *Hiking Arizona* (\$16.95) are both Falcon Guides by Bruce Grubbs. Both of these guides feature accurate, up-to-date trail information, detailed maps, and eye-catching black-and-white photos. The hikes range from easy strolls to strenuous mulit-day backpack adventures.



Western National Parks Association is a nonprofit cooperating association of the National Park Service. Western National Parks Association supports park research and helps fund programs that make park visits more meaningful.

4

One of our founding goals was to create and publish park-related information unavailable elsewhere. Currently we have more than 140 books in print with many new publications introduced yearly.

Camping Info

Fees

Campground fees are \$10 per site (\$5 with Golden Age and Golden Access passes) and are payable immediately upon occupying a campsite. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. There are no reservations. No hookups available. **Check-out time is noon.**

Site Capacity

Maximum eight persons and two motorized vehicles (e.g., one camping unit and a towed vehicle) per site. Four motorcycles may occupy a site. Motor vehicles must be parked in designated parking areas only and may not be driven onto the dirt or across irrigation ditches.

Maximum Stay

Maximum stay within the recreation area is limited to 90 days within any consecutive 12-month period.

Quiet Hours

Quiet hours are **10 p.m. to 6 a.m.** Please do not create or sustain unreasonable noise, including generators, during those hours.

Group Camping

Group campsites are located at the Boulder Beach campground. Fees are \$30 per night and up to 30 people per site. Please pay at the campground kiosk. Reservations are required. Please call (702) 293-8505. Drinking water is available at the blue faucets.

Water Use

Please wash dishes at your campsite and not at the water faucets. Do not drain contaminated water on the ground. Use the service sink at the comfort station. **Do not wash any vehicles in the campground.** Dump holding tanks at sanitary stations located at each campground. Except for filling storage tanks, do not connect hoses to water faucets.



RV Sites with Full Hookups

Park concessioners provide RV sites with full hookups (electric, water and sewage) at Lake Mead RV Village (Boulder Beach), Callville Bay, Echo Bay, Overton Beach, Cottonwood Cove, Temple Bar, and Katherine Landing. Reservations may be made by contacting the concessioners.

Fires

Do not leave fires unattended. Driftwood may be collected from below the high water line only and used in campfires. Firewood may also be purchased at concession stores. Ground fires are permitted only in metal fire rings provided in some of the sites.

Wildlife

Please do not feed the wildlife! Animals can become dependent on handouts of food and lose their fear of humans. This is dangerous for the wildlife and you. All plants, animals and natural features are protected in national parks.



Pets

Pets must be kept at all times on a leash not to exceed six-feet in length and should not be left unattended. Barking dogs are considered a nuisance. Owners must remove them from the campground. Never leave your pet in a closed vehicle. Temperatures can soar to 130 degrees F (54 degrees C) in minutes. Your pet can quickly die of heat stroke in those conditions. Don't forget to clean up after your pet.

Property

Leaving property unattended for longer than 24 hours is prohibited unless authorized in writing by the Superintendent.

General Rules

- Do not attach wires, ropes or nails to trees or shrubs.
- Digging, leveling, or other alterations of the ground is not permitted.
- Be aware of extreme summer heat when leaving children or pets in vehicles or trailers. Never leave them in a closed vehicle.
- Secure all valuables. Do not leave them in your campsite when you are not there, even for a short time.



Entrance and Lake Use Fees

Vehicle	annual pass	\$20 (covers all passengers)
Second Vehicle	annual pass	\$10 each additional vehicle
Vehicle	1-5 days	\$5 per vehicle (covers all passengers)
Individual	annual pass	\$20 per annual pass (motorcycle, bicycles etc.)
Individual	1-5 days	\$3 per person (motorcycle, bicycles, hikers)
Golden Age Passport	lifetime	\$10 US residents age 62 or older
Golden Access Passport	lifetime	Free - medically determined to be permanently disabled.
National Parks Pass		\$50 valid for one year from month purchased
Vessel	annual pass	\$20 first vessel
Vessel	annual pass	\$10 each additional vessel
Vessel	1-5 days	\$10 first vessel
Vessel	1-5 days	\$ 5 each additional vessel

Facilities

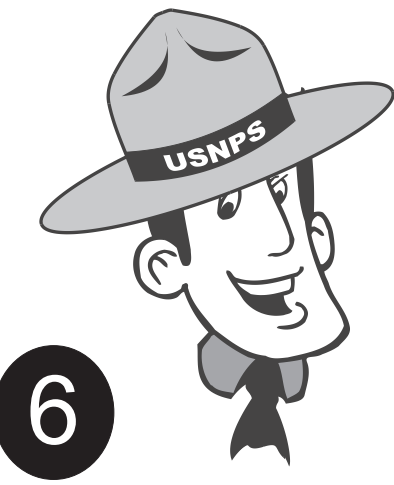
Callville Bay Resort (Forever Resorts) 702.565.8958 Reservations: 800.255.5561 www.foreverresorts.com	Cottonwood Cove Resort (Forever Resorts) 702.297.1464 Reservations: 800.255.5561 www.foreverresorts.com	Echo Bay Resort (Seven Crown Resorts) 702.394.4066 Reservations: 800.752.9669 www.sevencrown.com	Lake Mohave Resort - Katherine (Seven Crown Resorts) 928.754.3245 Reservations: 800.752.9669 www.sevencrown.com
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marina and Boat Rentals• RV Sites w/ Hook-ups• Visitor Trailer Village• Laundry and Showers• Store• Snack Bar and Lounge• Auto and Boat Gas• Dry Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marina and Boat Rentals• RV Sites w/ Hook-ups• Visitor Trailer Village• Laundry and Showers• Store• Café• Motel• Auto and Boat Gas• Dry Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marina and Boat Rentals• RV Sites w/ Hook-ups• Visitor Trailer Village• Laundry and Showers• Store• Restaurant and Lounge• Hotel• Auto and Boat Gas• Dry Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marina and Boat Rentals• RV Sites w/ Hook-ups• Visitor Trailer Village• Laundry and Showers• Store• Restaurant and Lounge• Motel• Auto and Boat Gas• Dry Storage
Las Vegas Boat Harbor 702.293.1191 www.boatinglakemead.com	Lake Mead Resort (Seven Crown Resorts) 702.293.3484 Reservations: 800.752.9669 www.sevencrown.com	Overton Beach Marina 702.394.4040 www.overtonbeachmarina.com	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marina and Boat Rentals• Restaurant and Lounge• Store• Boat Gas Las Vegas Bay Location: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Auto gas• Dry Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marina and Boat Rentals• Store• Restaurant and Lounge• Motel - 702.293.2074• Boat Gas• Dry Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marina and Boat Rentals• RV Sites w/ Hook-ups• Visitor Trailer Village• Laundry and Showers• Store• Snack Bar• Auto and Boat Gas• Dry Storage	
	Temple Bar Resort (Seven Crown Resorts) 928.767.3211 Reservations: 800.752.9669 www.sevencrown.com	Black Canyon/Willow Beach River Adventures 800.455.3490 Reservations: 928.767.4747 www.blackcanyonadventures.com	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marina and Boat Rentals• RV Sites w/ Hook-ups• Visitor Trailer Village• Laundry and Showers• Store• Restaurant and Lounge• Motel• Auto and Boat Gas• Dry Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marina and Boat Rentals• Store• Auto and Boat Gas	

See map on back for locations of these facilities

Other Services

Lake Mead Cruises (Lake Mead Ferry Services) Boat Tours - Private Charters 702.293.6180 www.lakemeadcruises.com	Lake Mead RV Village 702.293.2540 Visitor Trailer Village RV Park Laundry and Showers Dry Storage www.foreverresorts.com	National Park Service campgrounds are located at most of the developed areas. They offer running water, restrooms, dump stations, grills, picnic tables and shade. RV's, trailers and tents welcome. There are no hookups available.
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Information

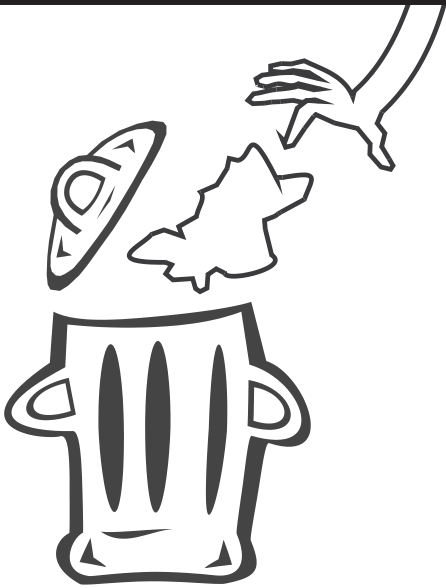


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Lake Mead National Recreation Area has many locations throughout the park staffed by interpretive rangers and law enforcement rangers to provide information or to assist in cases of emergency.

The Alan Bible Visitor Center is located at the junction of U.S. Highway 93 and Lakeshore Scenic Drive, about four miles outside of Boulder City. It is open seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Or you can call 702. 293.8990.

Ranger or information stations are located at Overton Beach, Echo Bay, Callville Bay, Las Vegas Bay, Boulder Beach, Temple Bar, and Meadview on Lake Mead, and at Katherine Landing, Willow Beach and Cottonwood Cove on Lake Mohave.



Got Trash?
Can It!

Respect your recreation area



Mountain Biking at Lake Mead NRA

Often when people think of Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NRA), they get visions of sparkling water, fast boats and splashing swimmers. And summer is the perfect time for that. But in the fall and winter the water becomes cooler and the crowds leave the beaches. This is the perfect time of year to explore the recreation area by mountain bike.

Our approved road system offers a great opportunity to get away from the traffic of the parks main roads and see the beautiful backcountry of Lake Mead NRA. Please stay on the roads and avoid disturbing fragile desert soils. Bike tracks could be around for hundreds of years.

All approved backcountry roads are marked with a numbered yellow arrow sign. The road numbers are shown on the backcountry road maps. You can pick up a backcountry road map at the Lake Mead Visitor Center, Katherine Landing Ranger Station or download the map on our website at www.nps.gov/lame/maps.html. Four maps are available for different areas of the park.

Backcountry roads are multiple use. You may encounter motor vehicles, equestrians, or hikers, so the rider needs to follow the rules of the road. Yield to equestrians and hikers and always keep your mountain bike in control.

If you are looking for solitude avoid Government Wash, #78, #79 #89, #90, and #91 which can be heavily traveled.

Some trail rides over packed dirt with a little loose sand and gravel include the *Historic Railroad*

Tunnel Trail which can be accessed below the Lake Mead Visitor Center and the *Lakeshore Trail* that runs from the Hacienda Casino parking lot down to Lake Mead Marina parallelling Lakeshore Scenic Drive. Please be careful of hikers.

The Historic Railroad Trail takes the visitor through five railroad tunnels that were used during the building of Hoover Dam. The tracks have been removed and the tunnels have been improved for safety. The views of the Boulder Basin of Lake Mead are spectacular from this trail.

Lakeshore Trail goes downhill from the Hdacienda to Lake Mead Marins. For the hearty you can park at the Hacienda and go down and back up. For a less strenuous ride you can organize a shuttle and have someone pick you up at the Marina. There have been some washouts along the trail from all of the rain we have had this year.

More challenging rides include #75 through the Goldstrike Canyon and #77 that ends in a cholla cactus forest.

With over 800 miles of backcountry roads, mountain bikers at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, have many opportunities to explore the beauty of the Mojave Desert.

For safety's sake, please always let someone know where you are going, take a buddy with you, bring lots of water, wear a helmet, and dress appropriately. Take a jacket because during the fall and winter months, the daytime temperatures can be mild but the nights turn very cold. Be prepared!

Burrowing Owls

At Lake Mead National Recreation Area we have a little owl that is rarely seen. This small, long-legged, ground-dwelling owl is called a Burrowing Owl because they live in burrows (small holes) in the ground. The Burrowing Owl is found in all the deserts of North America including the Mojave Desert. The owls use existing burrows that were previously dug by ground squirrels, desert tortoises, kit foxes and other burrowing animals. Burrowing Owls are opportunistic feeders, capturing large insects, small mammals, small birds, lizards, amphibians and scorpions. During the breeding season, they look for food mostly at night, but can be seen at dusk or dawn standing near the entrance of their burrows. Burrowing Owls have the quirky habit of “decorating” their burrows with unusual material such as animal dung. At Lake Mead, they commonly use cactus pads, creosote bush sticks plus the dung of burros and desert tortoises.

Adults are a rich sandy color with the male often appearing lighter due to sun bleaching of his feathers during hours standing guard at the



burrow entrance. Burrowing Owls average 9.5 inches total length, 23.0 inches wingspan and weigh approximately 7 ounces. Their extremely long legs extend 1.5 inches beyond their short stubby tail. Owl pairs produce an average of five young per year.

Western Burrowing Owls are declining throughout much of their range, and are currently listed as endangered in Canada, threatened in Mexico and a species of special concern in many midwestern and western states within the United

States. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists the Burrowing Owl as a National Bird of Conservation Concern. Little information on Burrowing Owl populations within desert habitats is currently available. Studies targeting desert shrubland populations are critical for determining population trends and establishing management strategies for Burrowing Owl conservation. Results of this study will help Lake Mead in adopting management strategies for Burrowing Owls within the park.

Lake Mead

